



CITY OF SAN ANTONIO  
**CENTER CITY DEVELOPMENT  
 & OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT**

**Alamo Plaza Advisory Committee**

**MINUTES**

**Tuesday, December 9, 2014**

**9:00 A.M. – 11:00 A.M.**

**International Center**

**La Orilla del Rio Ballroom, Room 385**

Vacant	Tri-Chair	-
Marise McDermott	Tri-Chair	Absent
Sue Ann Pemberton, FAIA	Tri-Chair	Present
Howard Peak	1994 Alamo Plaza Study Committee Representative	Present
Ramon J. Vasquez	History/Archeology Representative	Present
Dr. Steve Tomka	History/Archeology Representative	Absent
Dr. Sharon Skrobarcek	History/Archeology Representative	Present
Larry L. Laine	State of Texas Designee	Absent
Mardi Arce	Federal Government Designee	Absent
Frank Z. Ruttenberg	Private Property Owner Representative	Absent
Davis Phillips	Tourism Designee	Absent
Roger Perez	District 1 Appointee	Absent
Anthony Edwards	District 2 Appointee	Present
Patricia Mejia	District 3 Appointee	Present
Rudolph F. Rodriguez	District 4 Appointee	Present
Gabe Farias	District 5 Appointee	Present
Rudi Rodriguez	District 6 Appointee	Present
Ed Torres	District 7 Appointee	Absent
Boone Powell, FAIA	District 8 Appointee	Present
Bill Brendel	District 9 Appointee	Present
Jack Judson	District 10 Appointee	Absent

Others Present: Colleen Swain (CCDO), Sarah Esserlieu (CCDO), Mimi Quintanilla (Consultant, Facilitator), Shanon Shea Miller (OHP), Jackie King (GLO), Xavier Urrutia (Parks), Dr. Andrés Tijerina (historian)

**DISABILITY ACCESS STATEMENT**



The Saint Mary's Street entrance is accessible at street level to persons with disabilities. All elevators are handicap accessible. Parking is available at the Market Street Garage located at 421 W. Market St. Auxiliary aids and services, including Deaf interpreters, must be requested forty-eight [48] hours prior to the meeting. For accessibility assistance, call 207-7268 or 711 (Texas Relay Service for the Deaf).

1. **Welcome** by Sue Ann Pemberton at 9:10 a.m.
2. **Review and Approve Historic Annotations to Alamo Area Experience Plan Update** (document attached): Mimi Quintanilla explained that the Alamo Area Experience Plan Update the Committee worked to create will go before City Council. The historically annotated document will be attached to the Request for Qualifications, but it will not go before Council. She introduced Dr. Andrés Tijerina to review changes to the historical annotations.

On page three, Dr. Tijerina changed wording to include Native American local bands and mestizo settlers (see attached document). He explained many Native Americans were granted land now occupied along I-410 south down 181 toward Floresville. He clarified that Natives also received land at all of the missions. Some got actual mission lands, which were extensive including lands toward Floresville where the Medina River meets the San Antonio River. Ramon Vasquez asked about which lands were given to the Natives at the Alamo. Dr. Tijerina replied that his research was not that specific, but he could find out at the Committee's request. Ramon Vasquez replied that it could come out later through the interpretation process. The Committee agreed that the master planning team should look into this further. Dr. Tijerina commented that identifying the *suertes* to which the *acequias* provided water would be important due to the intense manual labor required to create them.

Mimi Quintanilla explained the historical annotations provide evidence for the bullet points in the Alamo Area Experience Plan Update. She acknowledged the depth of information the master planners will need to access for the interpretive plan. The Alamo Area Experience Plan Update bullet points were included to ensure important information was not left out, to indicate what should be further researched, and to serve as place holders for the interpretive plan.

Dr. Tijerina explained that by the time Spaniards got to Bexar, they had already intermixed with the Mexican Natives. When missions were established, the Spaniards were actually already mixed, or *mestizo*. They lived among the Native Bands, who were just as prominent. The report was modified to acknowledge the prominence of the local bands. Mimi Quintanilla requested changing the word "civilized" that has anthropological and cultural connotations contrasting the term "savage." Dr. Tijerina agreed to remove all instances of the word "civilized."

Rudi Rodriguez commented that San Antonio was the capital of Texas. Dr. Tijerina agreed it was declared the capital three times under Spanish and Mexican leadership. Two of the declarations are in his annotations. Mimi Quintanilla suggested this could be covered in the interpretative plan.

Frank Ruttenberg discussed Davis Phillips's comments discussing Manifest Destiny and whether Christianity is euphemistic and requested using 'religion' instead. A discussion of repression and democracy ensued. The Committee agreed the document would remain unchanged and nuances would be elaborated upon in the interpretive plan.

3. **Presentation for Request for Qualifications:** The Committee was presented with the draft request for qualifications (RFQ). Colleen Swain discussed next steps: the City Council presentation is scheduled for Thursday, December 11 at 9 a.m. They will vote to approve the Committee's vision, guiding principles, and themes and goals as well as authorization to proceed with issuing the RFQ. Committee



members raised concerns pertaining to the master planning process, such as distinguishing retail from the battlefield and how to best preserve the history of the site. Sue Ann Pemberton reminded the Committee that they will work with the selected firm throughout the planning process.

Colleen Swain noted the RFQ was previously for an interpretive and physical master plan, but it was revised to “Comprehensive Master Plan” because it is more than just interpretive and physical. An executive summary was also added to the RFQ. Colleen Swain discussed City efforts to conduct outreach to firms potentially interested in responding to the RFQ. She requested that Committee members have a firm in mind, they should notify City staff of the firm’s contact information. She explained Committee members cannot contact firms personally. Only City staff members are able to do so.

Rudolph Rodriguez requested reviewing the SBEDA requirements in the RFQ. Colleen Swain explained that if the prime firm is a small business, women-owned business, and/or minority-owned business, the firm can potentially receive an additional ten points when scoring submittals. Additionally, 24 percent of subcontracted work must be to certified small businesses in this region. Colleen noted that responses to the RFQ will be scored to select the top few firms to be interviewed. Staff would then enter contract negotiations with the selected firm. Colleen Swain shared the Project Evaluation Committee member list that would score responses to the RFQ and noted City management was still finalizing the list.

4. **Wrap-Up:** Mimi Quintanilla thanked the Committee and the members of the public attending. Meeting ended at 10:07 a.m.